



Marsh Musings

December 2006 A quarterly publication of FOHR Tinicum Volume 0604

The Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is a non-profit cooperating association founded in 1997 to assist the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in carrying out its educational, interpretive, and public use missions.

Winging it at the Annual Meeting Contributed by Bill Church - Retired Reporter

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge was called to order at 4 PM Saturday, October 29, 2006 by Shirley Robbins, Secretary. Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed and were approved. The Treasurer's report was not presented however, this reporter notes that a copy of the IRS Form 990 for the previous Fiscal Year shall be furnished on demand by any member of the public or Friends.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of nominations for Officers and for election/re-election to the Board of Directors. The following were presented and after seconding by William Church, elected:

New Member	Cynthia Dragish
Reelected Members	Stanley Rapp/ Anne Marie Rapp
President	Henry Hox
Vice President	Stanley Rapp
Secretary	Shirley Robbins
Treasurer	Maureen Wade

However the election of officers was later determined to be invalid. The By-Laws state the election of officers shall be by the Board. This minor infraction will, no doubt, be corrected by the Board at its Annual Meeting within the succeeding 45 days.

William Church, outgoing Board member, was presented with a numbered David Sibley print of a Golden Winged Warbler in appreciation of his services as Treasurer and member of the Board for the past eight years.

Prior to the meeting, a buffet lunch/dinner highlighted by barbecue, ribs, wings and hot cider was served. Vice President for Conservation Kim Lingle, and Dana Siander, Public Programs Manager from the Philadelphia Zoo presented the afternoon's informative program on bats. In addition to Dana's dispelling of many popular bat myths, Kim spoke about research and programs to save Rodriguez bats in Madagascar from extinction by having colonies in different zoos.

Hank Hox presents Sibley print to Bill Church



Photo courtesy of Ned Connelly



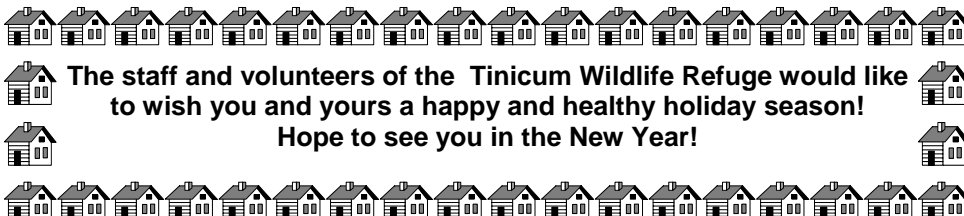
Take note!
Your voice counts!
FOHR Tinicum Board Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the CEEC.
Meetings are open to the public. You are invited to contribute!

Thank you to all of the renewing members of the Friends of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge during our Annual Renewal!
Your contributions and donations make a difference. We couldn't do it without you!
- Board of Directors



Want to be a Contributor?

If you've got a refuge or nature story to tell, we'd love to have you share. The next Marsh Musings goes to press in mid-February, contact Cynthia Dragish at cdragish@gmail.com



The staff and volunteers of the Tinicum Wildlife Refuge would like to wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season!
Hope to see you in the New Year!

Thank you to all our renewing members and contributors.

New members since Fall 2006

Red Fox (\$100-249)

Providence Garden Club
Marie Koegel
Nancy Szedlmayer
Barbara S. Supplee
Helen & Mimi McWilliams
Jane & Gordon Downing

Red-bellied Turtle (\$50-99)

David Goldberg
Mr. & Mrs. Roger K. Conant
Jim Deasey
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Reeves
Mrs. Shirley Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Waldeck
Sally & Michael Yow
Mr. Fred Pierce
Alan L. Eisen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Marshall Hamilton
Maureen Wade
Linda Smith

Monarch (\$25-49)

Mike Delaney
Mr. & Mrs. Fritz & Olga Thornton
Bob Quinn
James Klein & Addy Schultz
Kris DeBolt & Peter Wade
Stack - Stack Family
Ms. Sally Ann Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Saudargas
John & Rose Trefz
Linda & David Blythe
Mrs. Grace Grant
Ms. Evelyn S. Kritchevsky
Mr. John P. Nawn
Stephen Lockard & Valerie New-
pher
Jack & Gladys Thonus
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Watkins
Allan Mercik
Jim and Barbara Poupard
Cheryl McClure
John Ponton
Terry K. DiUbaldo
Mr. Francis J. Doyle
Elizabeth A. Geiger
Tim & Carol Martin Johnson
Doris & Pat McGovern
Mr. & Mrs. Fred T. Sanders
Helene & Jim Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Haven Kesling, Jr.
Mr. Muscoe B. Martin

Robert J. Bernauer, Sr.
Mr. Bill Church
Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. Connelly
Mike & Valerie Fusco
Laurel Gould
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Hence
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Rapp, Jr.
William & Mary Anne Werner
Ms. Annie Johnson
Ms. Jean A. Gerhardt
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Houghton
Miss Carole A. LaMarr
Tony & Grace Leger
Mr. Stephen A. Neff
John & Mary Thomas
Pamela Seretny & Rick White

Heron (\$15-24)

Carol & Don Storey
Kit Grundstein
Mr. Frank Hubbart
Ms. Linda DiGiovanni
Gerald Golden
Michele A. Bassler
Elke Muller
Elizabeth Hopkins
George Foreaker
Cynthia Dragish
Ms. Jackie Burns
Mr. Al Chernoff
Mr. Dick Cloud
Mr. Laurence S. Klugman
Mr. Robert Richards
Bob Zigmont
Geraldine Peevers
Mr. Bob Kestler
Ms. Wallace Ann Ayres
Gwen Coronway
Mary E. Haidar
Ms. Maya Wade

Duckling (\$10-14)

Verne Lee
Ms. Katherine Ann Clyde
Lois & Michael Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Hox
Laura B. Tracy
Nancy Drew
Marcella Frick
Ms. Barbara Jaffe
Ms. Ruth V. Kennedy
Leonard Weeks
Elizabeth A. Lanahan
Mrs. Theresa M. Easler
Ms. Frances G. DeMillion
Ms. Dorothy J. Maffei
Ms. Juliana Stirl



The official registration and financial information of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge at Tinicum may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Marsh Musings

A quarterly publication of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge at Tinicum

Board of Directors

Hank Hox, President
Stanley Rapp, Vice President
Maureen Wade, Treasurer
Shirley Robbins, Secretary
Annemarie Rapp, Store Mgr.
Denis Brennan
William L. Church
Chuck Lafferty
Tom Reeves
Fritz Thornton
Cynthia Dragish, Editor

Refuge Volunteers make the 3rd Annual Cradle of Birding Festival a Success

Contributed by Gary Stolz

Wow, three in a row! With a big thank you to all of our friends, volunteers and guest exhibitors, the third annual "Cradle of Birding Wildlife & Conservation Festival" was a great success. An estimated 800+ people visited the Refuge. Because of your efforts, visitors were each able to go home with a better understanding and appreciation of wildlife and habitat management. From helping with leading tours, wearing costumes, hosting visitors, shopping, cooking, serving guests, set up, clean up and many other roles, each of you had a helped make it happen.

The festival was held on Saturday, September 16th, in collaboration with Coast Days, South-west Philly Pride Day and Delaware County's Riverfest Ramble. Congressman Curt Weldon opened the festivities. He recognized the contributions of past FOHR president and founder, Jean Diehl with a photo montage of the refuge, a congressional proclamation and a flag flown over the Capital in her honor. Congressman Weldon also thanked the Foreaker Family of Prospect Park for their donation of a family heirloom, a handmade wooden skiff used on Tinicum Marsh to the refuge. Mrs. Eleanor Foreaker took the microphone and entranced the crowd with her memories of the



Photo courtesy of Bill Buchanan

FOHR Photo Group Member, Frank Doyle is caught in the act— of photographing of Delaware County's own RSVP Legends Band.

Congressman Weldon with Eleanor Foreaker (left) and Jean Diehl (right).



Photo courtesy of Bill Buchanan

riding and SLEEPING in this small boat down the Delaware with her husband. Later in the day, the Friends of the Heinz Refuge Photo group awarded prizes for their Annual Photography contest. Both the skiff and the over 100 photo contest entries were on display in the auditorium for all to see.

Keynote speaker Kevin Karlson was joined by more than three dozen conservation agencies, organizations and nature workshops for a wide diversity of fun conservation programs. Sponsored by the Friends of the Heinz Refuge and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, we were lucky again this year with beautiful weather and a great turnout.

Mark your calendar, next year's festival will be Saturday, September 15th, 2007 with keynote speaker Clay Sutton, author of *Hawks in Flight*, the Audubon Pocket Guide to Birds of Prey and many more. We'll see you then!

Letter from the Editor

Contributed by Cynthia L. Dragish

2006 is at last coming to an end. As is my first edition of the Marsh Musings newsletter! Many thanks to the contributors for the Winter 2006 Edition and to Kate for guiding me in my new role as Editor. I couldn't have figured this out without you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Cynthia and I have been writing for the refuge

for about 4 years now and not once did it occur to me that I would become editor one day. Outside of Tinicum, I am a freelance writer in the tri-state area and aspiring children's book author. I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and now live with my husband Keith in Aston, PA with our 2 cats, turtle and very new puppy Keeshond Indiana Jones, "Indy" for short. Feel free to check out my own website at: www.dragish.com.

I welcome all comments, questions, and inquiries regarding Marsh Musings or otherwise. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything either at cdra-gish@gmail.com or at 610-485-5888.

It is a pleasure to be the editor for Marsh Musings! I look forward to hearing from you.

Winter Outdoor Recreation

Contributed by Jared Klein

December is here, and with it, are shorter and colder days. As we move farther in to the winter season, more people are changing their outdoor recreational activities. In Pennsylvania, one popular activity is hunting.

The deer season is upon us. Early duck season has come and gone. The regular duck and goose season starts in mid-November. As you travel around the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and throughout the state, you may see some people wearing the traditional hunter clothing; camouflage. Don't be alarmed if you come across some of these people. Though the refuge does not permit any type of hunting. There are lands adjacent to and near the refuge where hunting is permitted.

As many people are aware, the deer population in Pennsylvania is high. With the high population of deer, comes an unbalanced ecosystem, forest degradation, crop and garden damage, and property damage. Safe and ethical hunting is one method used to control the overpopulation of a deer herd.

As you travel the trails and woods of Pennsylvania during the hunting seasons, we would urge you to wear a fluorescent orange vest and/or hat for your safety. If you are walking a dog, have them wear a fluorescent orange vest to help insure they are not mistaken for a game animal, and keep them on a leash at all times. Avoid wearing colors that would mimic a game animal. If you happen to see a hunter in a tree stand or blind, stop and shout "Stop" to gain the hunters attention that you are in the area.

For more information on hunting in Pennsylvania, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife web site at www.fws.gov/refuges/generalInterest/hunting.html and the Pennsylvania Game Commissions web site at www.pgc.state.pa.us/

To report hunting violations, call: **1-888-PGC-8001**

Report Violations

**John Heinz
National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum**



(610) 365-3118

Pennsylvania Game Commission



1-888-PGC-8001

**Pennsylvania
Fish and Boat Commission**



**Southeast Regional
Law Enforcement Office
(717) 626-0228**

Fowl Play is Just Ducky-Pennsylvania's 2007 Jr. Duck Stamp Contest

Contributed by Gary Stolz

Conservation through the arts rings throughout the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program as thousands of youth throughout our nation compete in this federal art contest sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and hosted for Pennsylvania at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Philadelphia.

Open to all students aged K-12, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program combines environmental education with the arts as youth compete for prizes and the chance to move on to national judging in Washington. The overall best of show winner competes for the national prize. Over 660 students entered last year's contest in Pennsylvania.

Ryan Bloom, an 18-year-old student from Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania won Best-of-Show in the Pennsylvania Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. Ryan was a senior at last year at Thomas Jefferson High School, and he is now off to college in Chicago. Ryan designed a Drake Northern Shoveler in a colored pencil medium. This was Bloom's first entry in the contest although he has always had an interest in wildlife art and conservation.

State Junior Duck Stamp contests are modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Competition held by the Service each year to choose the design for the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Duck Stamp) required of waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older. The Junior Duck Stamp Program offers youngsters a unique opportunity to develop their artistic talents while learning about wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

Applications and further details on this exciting conservation education program for 2007 can now be obtained on line at through the service's national web page at then click on Duck Stamps and Junior Duck Stamp Program or by going to our refuge home page at heinz.fws.gov and clicking on Junior Duck Stamp Program.

MARSH TALK

Contributed by Ray Miller

2006 was a homecoming for Marlene and me. Having been involved in many bird banding projects over the past 15 years we, like Darwin, stood on a hill and looked back to see where we started. In May, we began banding the tree and barn swallow babies. The skies were soon filled with young swallows learning to fly and catch insects on the wing. 776 were wearing shiny, new bands.

In the month of June, with the impoundment being pumped out for the shorebird migration, boyhood memories came rushing back. Seeing the flocks of peeps and other shore and wading birds on the mud flats, I remembered when the marsh was tidal and stretched all the way to the river.

We set up a bird banding lane on the pipeline in August. Little did we know what was in store for us. Many cans of Repel and bottles of water later, we discovered that all we were going to catch in the month of August was a moth and a grasshopper.

During September, birds started to move south. Getting to the refuge at 6 AM, it was still dark while setting up our nets. Every morning we were greeted by nighthawks until, by October 7th, we were up to 27 nighthawks just in our banding area scooping up insects on the fly. Each morning between 6:15 and 6:30, we were joined by not 1, not 2, but 3 Bald Eagles lifting off of their roost in the old oak tree by nest box 118. They were later joined by 3 more eagles toward the middle of October. What a treat to see them lift off at first light and start to hunt for food. We watched the young eagles in their often futile attempts to catch fish and then in awe as they successfully made their catch. On several occasions we watched as the adult and juvenile locked talons and barrel rolled in the sky. The last week of October, we had 2 adult, 2 juvenile and 2 in Basic II plumage flying together at low altitude right in front of our banding lane. SPECTACULAR!!

Then we would hear the rest of the

refuge wake up. We could hear chipping all around us, as the songbirds came out to feed. Gray catbirds were everywhere along with many species of warblers (some still in breeding plumage), cardinals, thrushes, thrashers, tanagers, hairy and downy woodpeckers. We can't forget to mention the many flickers that made a shamble of our mist nets and holding boxes. We were very surprised, however, to catch two intergraded flickers (yellow-shafted/red-shafted hybrids). All totaled, 1382 birds of 61 species were banded.

As the water level in the impoundment rose, many ducks started to arrive, with mallard, wood, black, pintail, and Shovelers. The large number of green-winged and blue-winged teal was soon joined by a large raft of ruddy ducks, and a few common and hooded mergansers. Mid September brought Yellow-bellied, Great Crested and Least Flycatchers, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and then came the robins and sparrows. We caught and banded many Swamp, Field, Song, Chipping, Fox, White-crowned and White-throated sparrows.

We had an exciting start to October as we watched a Northern Harrier hunt the pipeline trail on its way over the impoundment to its destination of Darby Creek where it repeatedly harassed the Green-winged teal. We caught and banded a Cooper's Hawk and a Merlin that flew into the mist nets chasing prey. Kestrels, Sharp-shinned hawks, and a Red-shouldered Hawk along with some Red-tailed Hawks and a Golden Eagle put on quite a show over the next few weeks. 7 Peregrine Falcons (3 at one time) put on another show of air power as they dove and circled above us and some of our regular visitors. The raptor activity meant some very slow, unproductive, passerine banding hours while everything flew for cover but proves how vital the refuge is to all species.

On our last morning at 7:22, we witnessed a massive flock of robins lift off out of the poplar woods. Their numbers were too great to count as they headed south.

We would like to thank the refuge for this unique and special opportunity and also a great thanks to the many visits from the public who stopped by for impromptu banding demos. We had great interactions with many of you. The fascination of the school kids who also stopped by often on their school trips made this experience very special. As we closed up for the season, we hugged each other and knew we had truly come



Photo courtesy of Ray Miller

New Arrival on A-Dock

Contributed by Ray Miller

Ships and barges arrive and depart Fort Mifflin's A-Dock on a daily basis. On June 16, 2006, A-Dock had an arrival of a different kind. A pair of Great Black-backed Gulls decided to set up a nursery at #5 capstain. Two young baby gulls are now exploring the dock and dining on catfish and bluegills. This nesting pair of Great Black-backed gulls and their young is a new state record for nesting birds in the state of Pennsylvania and arrived just in time to be included in the new Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania. For tracking purposes, USFWS bird bands were applied by M.T.W. Ray Miller, a federally and state licensed bird bander.

Many thanks to the line crews from G.M.L. who had to endure many hours of harassment by the parents and for being careful around the nest area. You'll only have to tolerate the parent's protective behavior until the beginning of August when the young will be old enough to fly and leave the dock.

EE Corner

Contributed by Erika Scarborough

"Take-A-Walk"

On October 21st, author Jane Kirkland visited the refuge to present "A Bald Eagle Soared Over My Grocery Store." From hand feeding an Eastern Bluebird mealworms, saving a young gull from a serious infection, and seeing the majestic American Bald Eagle fly over her local grocery store. The program highlighted Jane's humorous experiences with nature and the impacts humans can have on it.

Jane shares her books and a smile with some fans.

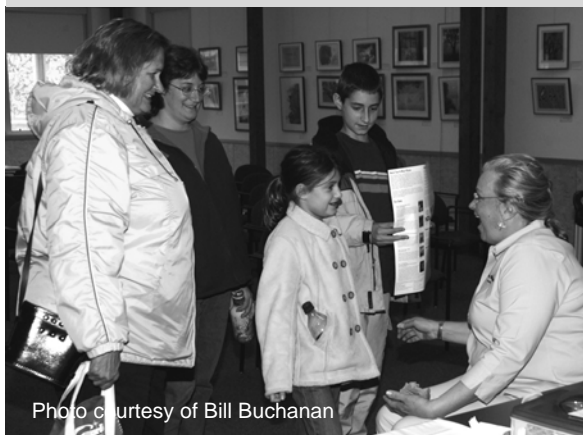


Photo courtesy of Bill Buchanan

If you are not familiar with Jane's works, Visit www.takeawalk.com. She is also a frequent guest on WXPB's Kids Corner. All 4 of Jane's books are currently for sale in Tinicum Treasures.

Area Educator?

Why the Fall/Winter season is a great time to visit!
As the wind gets colder and the leaves change color, the indoors seem to call us in to snuggle under blankets and drink hot chocolate. However, it is also great time to visit the refuge to watch nature "snuggling down". For area educators, visiting the refuge with school groups gives your students the opportunity to study the change in seasons without interruption from other school groups. Without a school group in tow, it means that YOU have the opportunity to learn more about the refuge!

Don't forget!

The refuge has several loan boxes available to area educators and partner organizations – Contact Environmental Education Specialist Erika Scarborough for more information at 215-365-3118 or Erika_scarborough@fws.gov

Interested in learning about birds?

Now is probably the best time of year to learn about birds – why you ask? Because the winter waterfowl is here and ducks are very easy to locate, observe, and identify with binoculars. The falling leaves also allow you to find several of the bird nests left over from the spring breeding season. Join our weekend walk leaders as they are some of the BEST volunteers around, very knowledgeable on our winged friends.

You don't own a pair of binoculars? No Problem! Ask at the front desk and we will let you borrow a pair of ours.

Girl Scout Badge day at the Refuge

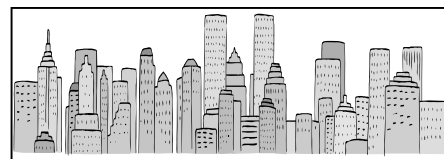
Contributed by
Erika Scarborough

On October 28th, over 40 Girl Scouts participated in a Badge Day at the Refuge. On hand to help out were several refuge volunteers who guided the girls through several indoor and outdoor activities. The girls learned how to use binoculars and bird identification. Continuing in the birding theme, they learned about beak adaptations and had great fun catching their "bird food". They also learned about wetlands and water quality issues.

Girl Scouts check out the birding scene with veteran volunteer and birder Shirley Robbins.



Photo courtesy of Doris McGovern



Welcome New Walk Leader Tony Croasdale !

Tony Croasdale is a Philadelphia native and has been birding at John Heinz NWR for twenty years. He is a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and has worked on field studies with songbirds in New York and geese in the Canadian Arctic. Tony has birded all over the country as well as in Europe, Asia and Australia. Tinicum would like to welcome Tony as one of its newest volunteers. Check out his first walk on December 16!

Winter Events 2006-2007

December 2006

2	Birds of Winter	Lynn Roman	9am
3	Early Winter Birds	Gregg Gorton	9am
	Jr./Sr. High School Nature Walk	Carole Brown	9am
9	Birds, Trees, and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
	Trail Tamers-New Volunteers Welcome	Hank Hox	9am
	Winter Flower Walk	Dick Cloud	130pm
10	Early Winter Birds	Edie Parnum	9am
	Family Program-Snow/Hibernation	Staff	1pm
16	Beginning Birding	Tony Croasdale	9am
24	Seasonal Birds	Robert Confer	9am
25	<i>Christmas Day, Buildings Closed.</i>	<i>Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset</i>	
30	Winter Birding	Brian Byrnes	8am

January 2007

1	<i>Happy New Year! Buildings Closed.</i>	<i>Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset</i>	
6	Winter Birding	Mary Ellen Krober	9am
7	Mid-Winter Birding	Gregg Gorton	9am
	Jr./Sr. High School Nature Walk	Carole Brown	9am
13	Birds, Trees, and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
	Trail Tamers-New Volunteers Welcome	Hank Hox	9am
	Winter Flowers	Dick Cloud	130pm
14	Winter Birds of Tinicum	Doris McGovern	9am
	Family Program - Seasons	Staff	1pm
15	<i>Martin Luther King Day, Buildings Closed</i>	<i>Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset</i>	
20	Winter Birding at Tinicum	Brian Byrnes	9am
21	Who's Still Here?	Debbie Beer	9am
	Story Time/Make&Take-Seasons	Cynthia Moore	1pm
27	Beginning Birding	Lynn Roman	9am
28	Learn to Bird at Tinicum	Denis Brennan	9am

February 2007

3	Birds, Trees, and Flowers	Tom Reeves	9am
4	Beginning Birding	Denis Brennan	9am
	Jr./Sr. High School Nature Walk	Carole Brown	9am
10	Late Winter Birds	Mary Ellen Krober	9am
	Trail Tamers-Volunteers Welcome!	Hank Hox	9am
11	Winter Birding at Tinicum	Edie Parnum	9am
	Family Program-White Tail Deer	Staff	1pm
17	Cold Ducks on Ice	Doris McGovern	9am
18	Late Winter Birding	Gregg Gorton	9am
	Make&TakeStoryTime-WhiteTailDeer	Cynthia Moore	1pm
19	<i>Presidents Day Buildings Closed</i>	<i>Grounds Open Sunrise to Sunset</i>	
24	Beginning Birding	Lynn Roman	9am
25	Beginning Winter Birds	Denis Brennan	9am

Staff Profile: **Mike McMenamin**

Contributed By Bill Buchanan

Mike McMenamin is one of the few staff members left at the refuge who can remember back when it was still the Tinicum National Environmental Center and there were no large buildings or parking areas. Mike said, "The visitor center was actually a visitor contact station which is the little stone building that now serves as our security building." He adds, "Two trailers served as our operations and maintenance buildings and chasing out mice in the morning was a daily routine! We leased office space in Scott Plaza for administrative staff."

Mike has been a fixture at the refuge since he was first hired in 1978. Starting as a maintenance man and eventually earning his shield for law enforcement he would go on to eventually become our Facilities Manager. Mike looks back on his career so far with a great deal of pride and a very apparent love for the work he has done. He recalls how former Project Manager, Dick Nugent, would joke about how he showed up in a three piece suit for his interview in November, 1978. He explains, "I was attending Bucks County Community College for Criminal Justice, and really anxious to get in with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. My four and a half year stint with the Internal Revenue Service and my three piece suit landed me the job of a lifetime! I continued on to finish my Criminal Justice Degree and then, as luck would have it, in 1981 I was selected to attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia. I became a collateral duty refuge law enforcement officer." This meant Mike would split his time between maintenance and law enforcement (LE).

Mike said that while serving as a refuge officer he had the opportunity to work on many interesting details that would see him not just at Tinicum but at other refuges as well including work enforcing hunting regulations during deer and waterfowl season. One of

his more memorable and satisfying experiences was while patrolling with a co-worker, noticed a fisherman at the Route 420 fishing pier. Mike tells the story, "He seemed to be disoriented and when we looked back at him he had fallen over the edge of the pier and disappeared into the water. We immediately ran to the pier and dove in. After feeling for him in the murky water we were able to grab his legs and pull him to shore. He regained consciousness and was taken to the hospital. He was okay and had suffered an epileptic seizure. We received the "Exemplary Act Award" from the Secretary of the Interior for saving his life."

Mike points out that there have been so many experiences he has had over the years while wearing his badge and one that stands out for him is when he had the opportunity to work in Washington, D.C. after the attacks on September 11, 2001. He was part of the special detail to secure the Department of the Interior Building and see to the protection of the employees who worked there. He adds, "It was an honor to be there and everyone felt a sense of dedication and patriotism that towered over any threat to Washington or to our co-workers at the Interior Building."

In 2003, Mike decided to turn in his LE credentials. He had been promoted to the Refuge Facility Manager and felt the responsibilities for the position required his full attention. When asked what were the toughest parts of his new title and responsibilities he said, "We always want to be able to get right to all the projects and work requests that come our way but with such a large facility it is not always so easy to just be able to drop what you are doing and go on to something else. You must prioritize and often need to be able to wear many differ-

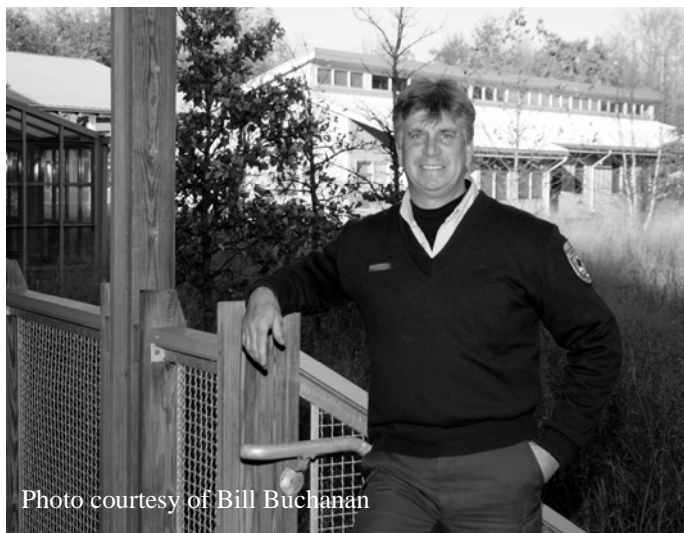


Photo courtesy of Bill Buchanan

ent hats."

Mike is quick to point out that thanks to the help and support of volunteers, the Friends of the Heinz Refuge, and the community service people he actually supervises nearly every weekend with Delaware County Community Services, as well as a similar group that refuge volunteer, Craig Lewis, brings in through the Philadelphia Parole Program every week, the work load is eased up a great deal for our small refuge maintenance staff.

As far as the most gratifying part of his job he said, "Seeing the good results of all our efforts both as a refuge and as an agency really committed to doing all we can for the natural world." Mike says it really is gratifying to him when people say to him they are pleased with all the good changes they have seen at the refuge be it the work to eliminate invasives or the reintroduction of native plants or of the improvements to trails, and facilities in general.

He also has a sense of pride in the work that he has been involved with at other refuges in helping them to deal with their own problems. In going back to his work in supervising community service folks he also notes that he always makes sure that he allows time to really explain to them the importance of wetlands, the refuge, and how what they do is very much a part of the partnership we need to be good stewards of the planet. *Continued on next page.*

Staff Profile continued.

For Mike, his role at the refuge over the past 28 years is as much apart of his life as is his family. His wife, Ali, a talented artist, has done a great deal of art work she has donated over the years to the refuge, and also has many of her works in the Tinicum Treasures Gift Shop. His love for the outdoors and commitment to the FWS run in the family. His son, Mike, a junior at Delaware Valley College as a biology major in Wildlife Management, has been an intern and a Bio-Tech here. He hopes to pursue a career with the USFWS.

When Mike sums it all up he says, "I count working for the USFWS as one of my biggest blessings. I have been so fortunate and as an avid hunter and outdoorsman I believe this is why I had always pursued a career with USFWS. I have witnessed a great transformation here. We have come so far and now house many state-of-the-art buildings. I have had the opportunity to serve as part of a regional wetland restoration team and restore or create wetlands on private lands including my own. It has been my pleasure to work with such a great group of dedicated people and I look forward to many more exciting and challenging years at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum!"

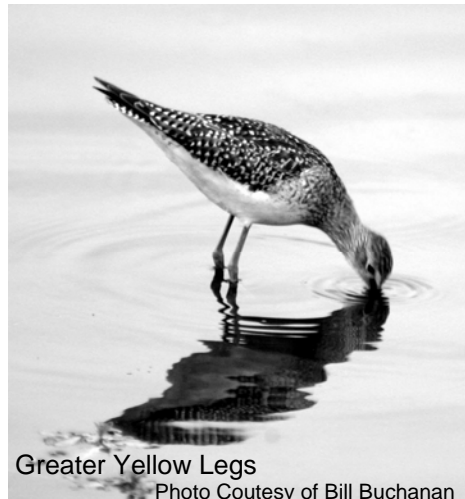
Shorebird Numbers Soar!

Contributed by **Brendalee Phillips**

This was the second year of the three year impoundment study and we saw a doubling in the number of shorebirds over last years migrating species. We started lowering the water level in late April and kept it low until early September. We saw some northward bound birds in the spring, but the big numbers were during the fall migration. Last year we had a one week period where there were a little over a thousand birds using the impoundment in the fall. This year we had about 5 weeks, from mid-July to Early September, where there were 1 to 2 thousand birds daily, with the highest count having 2,328 shorebirds present.

Fall waterfowl migration is looking great and we have many species stopping by. Over the past few weeks we've seen the usual Canadian Geese, Wood Ducks, and Mallards, and also Ruddy Ducks, Eurasian Widgeons, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Buffelhead and more. We will continue our weekly counts and are looking forward to the third year of the study.

The marsh was also worth seeing. From areas along Henderson Trail, wild rice could be seen everywhere. It was an incredible sight and we are hopeful that next year we will see the same. We have been doing our best to knock back some of the invasive plants and give the natives, like the rice, a chance to take hold. Our summer help, Mike E. McMenamin and Nick Fuski, hand



Greater Yellow Legs

Photo Courtesy of Bill Buchanan

sprayed over 25 acres of invasive plants this summer. We were also able to treat an additional 120 acres by helicopter spraying. The fight against invasive plants is never-ending, but with a lot of help and effort, we are slowly seeing differences in some areas of the refuge. Mike and Nick were also an invaluable help with the invertebrate and plant sampling surveys for the impoundment study not only here but especially at Supawna Meadows NWR in NJ. We wish them well in their studies and hope they will come back if they get the chance!

Recycling Makes a Difference.

Dear Friends-

Did you know that the plastic in each printer cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, or that 1.5 million cartridges go to land fills each **month**? FOHR Tinicum is continuing its participation in the Green School Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our organization. We collect **ALL BRANDS** of empty printer, fax, and copier cartridges as well as cell phones for recycling. Please bring these items to the Cusano Environmental Education Center (CEEC) to be deposited in the FOHR Tinicum collection box located in the book/gift shop.

As of August, with your help, we have recycled a total of 378 pounds of waste for a total of \$397.45 for 2006 to help our refuge environmental education (EE) programs this year. There were several boxes sent in early October and we're waiting for the next payment later this month. We now have a recycling friend in Mr. Jack Thonus who learned of our program through a quarterly newsletter that his wife received from FOHR Tinicum. We also have our first corporate sponsor, the Wistar Institute of Philadelphia. **Your** work place can help by recycling their used cartridges and cell phones. If your work place is interested in helping us with this project, contact Annemarie Rapp 610-485-7378 or anneagle@juno.com and she will make arrangements for a recycling program at your business. Whether you want a collection box to be dropped off or to become a registered corporate sponsor, please remember that every ink cartridge or cell phone recycled helps both your future and that of refuge EE programs. Thank you - Anne.

Volunteer Corner Contributed by Sara Kenney

Volunteers at the Heinz Refuge help to outreach to the public and educate the community on the wildlife and habitats of the Refuge. They also run Friends activities and help staff the book store and front desk. Volunteers are crucial to the operations of the Refuge. Volunteers make a big difference at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge!

Snapshot!

Lorraine Holmes volunteers on Wednesdays for four hours each week at the front desk in the Cusano Environmental Education Center. Lorraine started volunteering in April when her husband Ron Holmes, who is involved in the Friends photo group, introduced her to the Refuge. Lorraine is a retired registered nurse and she also currently volunteers for a senior center delivering meals to the elderly once weekly. Lorraine enjoys volunteering here at the Heinz Refuge and always greets visitors with a friendly smile. She likes meeting new people with similar interests in wildlife and the outdoors. As Lorraine says, "What is more beautiful than nature?"



Photo courtesy of Sara Kenney

Current Events

On October 24, **Gus Kelly, Mary Haidar and Ken and Al Kunz** joined RSVP (Retired Senior volunteer Program) and attended training on Lead and Children's Health at the EPA. They are planning on meeting with other RSVP volunteers at the Refuge on November 8 to create posters for the Cusano Center and other community centers on the environmental issues. Also they will come up with presentations on these issues in order to educate the community and help make people more aware of the important resources found at the Refuge.

On September 18-22 **Jason Trenchard, Hank Hox**, and myself attended a Trail Management Training course at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. The course provided training covering the trail management process including applicable laws, accessibility, planning layout and design, materials, construction, funding, and maintenance. The training experience and course materials will come in handy as we work to improve Trail Tamers activities that shape the public use of this Refuge.



Photo courtesy of Sara Kenney

THANK YOU! To all our dedicated volunteers who sacrifice their time to help Heinz Refuge fulfill its mission in conservation of the wildlife and their habitats and to foster the public's understanding and appreciation of the fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats.

If you would like to volunteer please call 215-365-3118 or stop by the Cusano Center!

A Shout out to Past, Present and Future Trail Tamers

Contributed by Hank Hox - Your Fearless Leader

Just a reminder that Trail Tamers continues through out the year. Come on down to your Refuge on the second Saturday at 9:00am and see what we're doing. If it's rainy or cold we'll find something to do inside. If there is anything you would be interested in doing let us know, we're open to suggestions. If you could let us know your coming that would be nice too!



Mike McMenamin has a (pick) ax to grind with these volunteers from Friends Central High in Philadelphia. The students planted native oak acorns behind the Cusano Center. The area will be fenced this winter to protect seedlings from deer.

Refuge Rap

Contributed by Kate McManus

Restoration Planning begins...

In February of 2000, many of you will remember that the refuge was the site of a major oil spill from a Sunoco-owned pipeline. Approximately 200,000 gallons of crude oil leaked from pipelines located near the edge of the impoundment. Many, many months of clean-up and repair followed. In spring of 2005, Sunoco agreed to pay \$865,000 for damages to natural resources caused by the oil spill. This payment was in addition to the completed on-site restoration of the spill site and haul road.

The natural resource damage assessment from the release of oil is being combined with an assessment for the release of hazardous substances from the Publicker Industries Inc. National Priorities List Superfund Site, located on the banks of the Delaware. The combined funds are targeted to be used for wetland restoration at the refuge.

A draft plan proposes to restore tidal marsh to an area that was formerly used as a dredge spoil site by the Army Corps of Engineers. In fact most folks who have been around for while call it the "Corps Property." It was identified as a high priority restoration area in the refuge's master plan. Up to 12 acres of freshwater tidal marsh will be restored. The project will build on the experience gained in past restoration efforts. This project will be different however in that much of the on-the-ground work will be conducted by the USFWS. Staff from the refuge and the staff of Ecological Services offices in Pennsylvania and Delaware have been collaborating on the project. Melinda Turner, a biologist located at Pennsylvania Field Office of Ecological Services, is the coordinator of the effort.

The public was invited to comment on the plan and accompanying environmental assessment until November 25th, 2006. We will be responding to the comments this winter and hope to finalize the plan shortly. Concurrently, we are conducting soil testing in the restoration site to evaluate the potential impacts of any contaminants.

Folcroft Landfill Progress

We haven't forgotten about the Lower Darby Watershed Superfund site, progress has been slow but finally, there is news to report. Contaminants Biologist Rob Allen writes:

"After several years of negotiations, all legal documents are in place and field work at Folcroft Landfill is about to begin. A group of private parties has agreed to perform the investigation of the landfill. The contractor they have retained will be on site in December to install several groundwater monitoring wells and collect samples of soil, surface water and groundwater. The results of the sample analysis will then be used to evaluate risks to people and wildlife. Based on the risk assessment, cleanup options will be determined. The field work should take about three to four months."

Thanks for your patience. After many months of repairs and maintenance to their pipelines through storms and extreme high tides, Texas Eastern Pipeline wrapped up their work at the 420 West entrance in November. If you have any questions about these or other refuge matters, please feel free to contact me any time.

Renew your Friends of the Heinz Refuge Membership Today!

This is a ____ new ____ renewal ____ gift membership.

Name _____

Address _____

I am joining FOHR Tinicum at the following membership level:

- ____ \$500 Wild Rice (Corporate)
- ____ \$250 Merlin (Sustaining)
- ____ \$100 Red Fox (Contributing)
- ____ \$50 Red-bellied Turtle

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

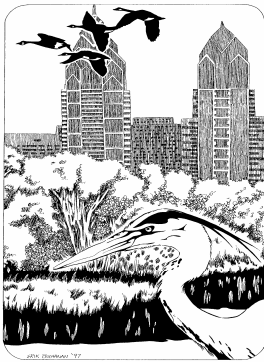
(Group)

- ____ \$25 Monarch (Family)
- ____ \$15 Heron (Individual)
- ____ \$10 Duckling (Student/Senior)

____ Yes, I am interested in receiving the newsletter via email to save paper and postage.

Make checks payable to FOHR Tinicum and mail to P.O. Box 333 Folcroft, PA 19032-0333 or bring to the refuge next time you visit.

Membership entitles you to attend member only events and a 10% discount at gift shops operated by Friends of National Wildlife Refuges in the Mid Atlantic. The best benefit of membership is knowing that you support the conservation of the largest remaining fresh water tidal marshes in Pennsylvania and one of the most urban National Wildlife Refuges in the country!

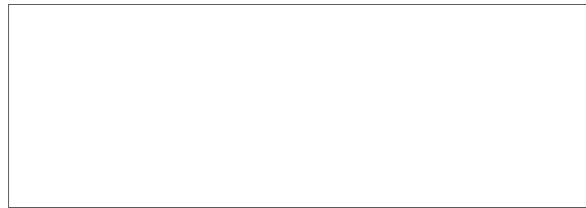


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Thank you in advance for your renewal.
Here is your chance to give us your feedback.

What kinds of programs do you think FOHR should do?

Want to get involved? What do you want to do?
